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Czechoslovakia

ECONOMIC SITUATION AND AGRICULTURE

The emphasis on developing heavy industry involves great sacrifices and a lowering of the standard of living. Communist propaganda, on the other hand, tries to make people believe that the development of heavy industry will not affect the standard of living. These doctrinaire statements were later contradicted by facts. The first signs of difficulty became apparent during the summer of 1950, when bread and flour became scarce. The confidence of the people in the government was shaken. A panic followed during which the entire population went on a buying spree. By the end of January 1951 the price of bread and flour rose. In the meantime, the Communists continued to maintain that the people could have "both bread and factories".

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the situation will remain precarious in Czechoslovakia until equilibrium is attained. Theoretically, equilibrium can be achieved only if the plan of industrialization is carried out.

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the situation in Czechoslovak agriculture on the eve of the harvest, in June and July 1951.

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the Communists have led to disorder and disorganization within Czechoslovak agriculture.

Czechoslovakia cannot exist without a certain amount of food imports.

restrictions were placed on the import of butter and meats from the USSR and these may have aggravated the food situation.

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Target dates are often not met. Work is poorly organized and there is a marked lack of incentive since remuneration often does not depend on merit, but on position within the party. In addition, the cooperatives consume too large a part of what they produce and, as a result, the collection plans are not fulfilled. ~~Cooperatives~~

eventually Czechoslovakia will face catastrophe and will have to turn to the Soviet Union in order to exchange its industrial products for foodstuffs.

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